

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 EA-06 IO-06 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01
/038 W

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R 191037Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9916
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
DEA HQS WASHDC
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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DEPT FOR OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONS AND FOR SPECIAL
ASSISTANT FOR NARCOTICS MATTERS

PARIS FOR DEA/RO

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: OREP (SCHEUER, JAMES), SNAR NL
SUBJECT: CODEL SCHEUER VISIT TO NETHERLANDS

REF: THE HAGUE 884

1. SUMMARY. CONGRESSMAN SCHEUER EFFECTIVELY PRESENTED CASE
FOR EXPANDED CONTRIBUTION TO UNFDAC IN SERIES OF MEETINGS
FEBRUARY 16-17 WITH DUTCH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, INCLUDING
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION MINISTER PRONK AND STATE SECRETARY
FOR CULTURE, RECREATION AND SOCIAL WORK MEIJER. END SUMMARY.

2. IN TWO DAYS OF MEETINGS FEBRUARY 16 AND 17 FOLLOWING HIS
ATTENDANCE AT THE CONFERENCE IN GENEVA OF THE UN FUND FOR
DRUG ABUSE CONTROL, CONGRESSMAN JAMES SCHEUER OF NEW YORK
PERSONALLY PRESENTED TO DUTCH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HIS ARGU-
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MENTS FOR A CONTRIBUTION TO UNFDAC BY THE NETHERLANDS OF ONE
MILLION DOLLARS. HE DID THIS IN CALLS ON THE DEVELOPMENT
COOPERATION MINISTER, JAN PRONK; THE STATE SECRETARY FOR
CULTURE, RECREATION AND SOCIAL WORK, WILLEM JEIJER; ONE
OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARIES GENERAL FOR JUSTICE, LENNART
ORANJE; THE CHIEF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH MINISTRY'S INTER-
NATIONAL STAFF, JONKHEER DEREK DE GEER; THE CHIEF OF THE

CULTURE, RECREATION AND SOCIAL WORK MINISTRY'S SECTION ON COMMUNITY SOCIAL PROGRAMS, R. WETSELAAR; THE HEAD OF THE SPECIAL SQUAD OF THE AMSTERDAM POLICE DEPARTMENT, GERARD TOORENAAR; AND THE HEAD OF THE SECOND CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT'S NOW-DISSOLVED COMMITTEE ON NARCOTICS LEGISLATION, LIBERAL PARTY MEMBER MRS VEDER-SMIT. IN ADDITION, CONGRESSMAN SCHEUER SAW AT FIRST HAND THE LOCALE OF THE NARCOTICS TRADE IN AMSTERDAM, AND DISCUSSED A RANGE OF NARCOTICS-RELATED MATTERS WITH THE AMBASSADOR, THE DCM, DEA SPECIAL-AGENT IN CHARGE LOGAN AND THE EMBASSY'S NARCOTICS COORDINATOR.

3. CONGRESSMAN SCHEUER TOLD EACH OF HIS LISTENERS HOW A SIGNIFICANTLY LARGER DUTCH CONTRIBUTION COULD BE USED BY UNFDAC TO CUT OFF THE SUPPLY OF NARCOTICS AT ITS SOURCE. HIS MAIN POINTS ARE SET FORTH IN THE REFERENCE TELEGRAM REPORTING ON HIS AND THE AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON MINISTER PRONK.

4. STATE SECRETARY MEIJER EXPLAINED THAT AFTER A PERIOD OF SEVERAL YEARS IN WHICH THE GOVERNMENT WAS OCCUPIED IN FORMULATING POLICY FOR COMBATING DOMESTIC NARCOTICS ABUSE, THE NETHERLANDS IS NOW PREPARED TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITIES INTERNATIONALLY. HE EXPRESSED INTEREST THEREFORE IN THE UN FUND'S POTENTIAL AS A VEHICLE FOR SUCH DUTCH EFFORTS, BUT NOTED THAT THE DECISION ON HOW MUCH TO CONTRIBUTE WAS ONE THAT HAD TO BE MADE BY FOUR MINISTRIES -- HIS OWN, AS WELL AS THOSE OF PUBLIC HEALTH, JUSTICE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS -- ACTING TOGETHER IN AN INTER-MINISTERIAL STEERING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GROUP HEADED BY PUBLIC HEALTH MINISTRY DIRECTOR-IN-CHIEF J. VAN LONDEN. THE PRESENT DUTCH CONTRIBUTION, IN THE FORM OF AN ANNUAL GIFT OF 75,000 GUILDERS (ONE DOLLAR NOW EQUALS 2.50 GUILDERS) AS A SUBSIDY FOR THE MAGAZINE DRUG DEPENDENCE, COMES FROM THE BUDGET OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH MINISTRY. THE BEST POSSIBILITY OF LARGER SUMS BEING MADE AVAILABLE WOULD SEEM TO LIE IN TAPPING THE BUDGET OF THE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION MINISTRY. MINISTER OF JUSTICE VAN AGT HAS PUBLICLY PROPOSED THIS BUT MEIJER SAID HE DID NOT KNOW MINISTER PRONK'S REACTION.

5. WETSELAAR SAID THAT THE UN FUND'S HEAD, DE BEUS, HAD WRITTEN A LETTER LAST YEAR TO PRIME MINISTER DEN UYL ASKING FOR AN INCREASED CONTRIBUTION INCLUDING AN APPROPRIATION FROM THE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BUDGET, AND THAT A RESPONSE HAS BEEN PREPARED BUT NOT YET SIGNED. WETSELAAR UNDERSTOOD THAT THE DRAFT MADE THREE ARGUMENTS: 1) THAT THE NETHERLANDS LACKED THE MONEY TO CONTRIBUTE ANY MORE TO THE FUND,

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2) THAT THE POTENTIAL THIRD WORLD BENEFICIARIES LACKED
NATIONAL PROGRAMS WITH WHICH THE FUNDS'S EFFORTS COULD BE
COORDINATED AND 3) THAT IN ANY CASE THE NETHERLANDS HAS
ALREADY MADE A CONTRIBUTION. CONGRESSMAN SCHEUER REPLIED
THAT LACK OF FUNDS COULD ALSO BE CITED BY THE US, BUT
THAT THE US WOULD NEVERTHELESS GIVE MORE IF ITS SHARE
WERE BETTER BALANCED BY OTHER DONORS. REFERRING TO THE
SUCCESS THE US HAD IN PERSUADING TURKEY TO STOP GROWING
OPIUM, HE RECALLED THAT TURKEY DID NOT HAVE A PROGRAM
BEFORE THE US HELPED IT TO FORMULATE ONE. AS FOR THE
SIZE OF THE DUTCH CONTRIBUTION, CONGRESSMAN SCHEUER CHAR-
ACTERIZED IT BY THE LATIN EXPRESSION "DE MINIMIS".

6. ORANJE AND DE GEER WERE GUESTS AT A LUNCHEON THE
AMBASSADOR GAVE FOR CONGRESSMANS SCHEUER. (ANOTHER GUEST,
THE HEAD OF THE STATE POLICE NATIONAL NARCOTICS UNIT, JAN
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VAN STRATEN, WAS UNABLE AT THE LAST MINUTE TO ACCEPT THE INVITATION.) DE GEER QUESTIONED WHY THERE WAS A SEPARATE UN FUND WHEN THE VEHICLE OF THE UN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM PROBABLY WOULD BE MORE ACCEPTABLE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. CONGRESSMAN SCHEUER SAID THAT PERHAPS THE UNDP WOULD BE A BETTER ORGANIZATION TO USE WERE THE DECISION TO BE MADE AGAIN, BUT THAT UNFDAC HAD NOW BEEN IN EXISTENCE SIX YEARS AND HAD GAINED VALUABLE EXPERIENCE THAT COULD NOT EASILY BE TRANSFERRED TO THE UNDP. BESIDES, DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WITH DRUG PROBLEMS WANTED UNFDAC HELP.

7. MRS VEDER-SMIT TOLD CONGRESSMANSCHUEER THAT HIS VISIT WAS TIMELY SINCE SHE WAS SCHEDULED THE NEXT MORNING TO ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT UNFDAC OF JUSTICE MINISTER VAN AGT AND PUBLIC HEALTH MINISTER VORRINK ON THE FLOOR OF THE SECOND CHAMBER. SHE SAID THAT AS A RESULT OF HER TALK WITH THE CONGRESSMAN SHE WOULD SEEK TO HAVE THE CHAMBER'S NARCOTICS COMMITTEE RECONSTITUTED IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO REQUEST A MEETING WITH DE BEUS OF THE UN FUND, SO THAT THE MEMBERS COULD HEAR THE ARGUMENTS FOR UNFDAC FROM ONE OF THEIR OWN COUNTRYMEN.

8. COMMENT: DESPITE THE SHORT NOTICE WE WERE GIVEN OF CONGRESSMAN SCHEUER'S ARRIVAL, WE ARE SATISFIED THAT HE HAD A WORTHWHILE VISIT. GIVEN MORE TIME TO PREPARE THE GROUND, WE MIGHT HAVE SUCCEEDED IN ARRANGING MEETINGS WITH VAN AGT AND OTHERS, BUT THE CONGRESSMAN DID SEE AND ELICITED A SURPRISINGLY POSITIVE RESPONSE FROM MINISTER PRONK. WE BELIEVE THAT CONGRESSMANSCHUEER'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE AMBASSADOR'S OPEN-ENDED INVITATION TO VISIT THE NETHERLANDS (76 THE HAGUE 6358) HAS HAD THE BENEFICIAL EFFECT WE HOPED FOR, BOTH IN MAKING CLEAR TO THE CONGRESSMAN THE MAJOR EFFORT BEING MADE BY THE NETHERLANDS TO COMBAT NARCOTICS ABUSE AND IN ALLOWING A HIGHLY KNOWLEDGABLE MEMBER OF CONGRESS TO BRING HIS WEIGHT TO BEAR DIRECTLY ON LEADING DUTCH OFFICIALS IN THE NARCOTICS FIELD IN AN EFFORT TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INCREASE THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO UNFDAC. WE WILL REPORT ON THE DUTCH DECISION WHEN IT IS TAKEN.

9. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD APPRECIATE IF H WOULD PASS A COPY OF THIS TELEGRAM TO CONGRESSMAN SCHEUER. MCCLOSKEY

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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